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BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 22, 1856.

Read and ordered to be printed.

By order,

C. HARWOOD, Secretary.

MEMORIAL

OF

JUDGE JOHN T. MASON

RELATIVE TO

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

MEMORIAL.

To the General Assembly of Maryland:

The undersigned respectfully submits to the Honorable the General Assembly of Maryland, that by virtue of a resolution passed, at December Session of the Legislature 1832, No. 41, entitled, a "Resolution in favor of the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College," he has become as Judge of the Court of Appeals, with others, one of the Trustees of said College, the undersigned regards the purpose of the Legislature, in the passage of the above resolution, to entrust to the individuals therein named, as public functionaries of the State, the especial and peculiar custody of the State's interest in that institution.

Under this view of the resolution, and in reference to the obligations imposed by it, the undersigned has given the affairs of the College his faithful attention, until he has become satisfied of his inability, as the State's representative, to accomplish any material results towards the attainment for the College, of the high behests designed by its original founders, or by the liberality of the State.

When the undersigned became a trustee, by virtue of his election as Judge of the Court of Appeals, he found the affairs of the college in a languishing and most deplorable condition. With the design of more effectually developing the resources and advantages of the instiution, in December 1856, he moved a series resolutions having for their purpose a thorough reorganization of the faculty and its general administration. These resolutions were unanimously adopted, a copy of which is herewith appended marked "No. 1." The report of the committee appointed thereunder is also herewith submitted marked "No. 2." The report was adopted without amendment, and with unanimity, while the resolutions accompany them were only slightly modified. The attention of the General Assembly is especially called to the following extract from said report: "The committee are well aware that a part of the principal of the College funds must be expended in order to carry into effect these recommendations. They nevertheless do not hesitate a moment on that account to make them. Regarded merely as an experiment, a total failure will not make the condition of the College worse than it is now. The case before us is that of a failure, and we deal with it as such.

The manner in which the pecuniary resources of the College are at present employed, is extravagance and misapplication. The following facts will prove this assertion. The Grammar School, it is understood supports itself. There are at this time twenty-eight students in the College department, in whose instruction the revenues of the College are expended, including the State's annual donation, $3,000; the income from investments, $2,289, the amount received from that source during the past year, and the amount received as tuition money from a part of the students, $865, during the past year; making an aggregate of $6,154; in other words, $219 is expended upon each student in the College department, or $188 of the State's donation and the invested fund upon each. This is the outlay in money. In addition, all the other property of the College, real and personal, at the lowest estimate worth $30,000, is in like manner employed in the business of teaching twenty-eight boys."

Notwithstanding the condition of the College was thus pronounced by the Board of Visitors "a failure," yet, not "dealing with it as such," the Board, in the opinion of the undersigned, have virtually restored the same condition of affairs, which they had previously admitted had imposed upon them the obligation of making an effort to remedy.

In this aspect of the affairs of the college, and in reference to the large interest held by the State in it, the undersigned has deemed it his duty to invite the attention of the Legislature to the subject.

By the resolution of the Legislature, already referred to, it is provided "that at every meeting of the General Assembly, a joint committee shall be appointed to investigate and report to the General Assembly, the proceedings of said Board, and whether the same be in conformity to law and calculated to effectuate the design of the Legislature in endowing said college."

For a number of years no action has been taken by the Legislature in pursuance of the aforegoing resolution. It is now respectfully recommended that such a committee be appointed, and that a thorough investigation into the affairs of the college be instituted.

Under the hope that it may not be deemed inconsistent with his obligations to the Legislature in this connection, the undersigned ventures further to suggest that the committee herein proposed, may be entrusted with the additional duty of inquiring into the expediency and power of the Legislature to convert St. John's College into an institution for the diffusion of agricultural science among the people of this State, and thereby better subserve the great purpose of the State in the endowment of this institution, which was the promotion of the public welfare by the diffusion of knowledge and science.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN THOMPSON MASON.

[NO. I.]

RESOLUTIONS.

By the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College.

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 8th, 1854.

1. *Resolved*, That the present languishing condition of St.John's College is a subject of deep concern and solicitude to the friends of the institution, and to the people of the State of Maryland generally, and calls for early and energetic action on the part of the trustees, with a view of restoring the former prosperity and usefulness of the college.

2. *Resolved*, That St. John's College, by its liberal endowment from the State of Maryland, by its healthful and salubrious location, and by means of the enlightened socie ty by which it is surrounded, possesses advantages which few, if any of her sister institutions in the United States enjoy, and should therefore rival them in prosperity and usefulness.

3. *Resolved*, That with a view of developing the resources and advantages of this institution, a committee of the trustees, three in number, be appointed, whose duty it shall be to recommend to an adjourned meeting, a thorough reorganization of the College, and to propose such other means which may tend to promote the greater prosperity and success of the institution.

4. *Resolved*, That this meeting adjourn to meet again at this place, on Monday the 15th day of January next, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to receive the report of the committee, and that the Secretary, in the meantime, be requested to communicate a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the several members of the Board of Trustees.

The Hon. John T. Mason, Dr. J. Ridout, and B.T. B. Worthington, Esq., were appointed the committee to report to the adjourned meeting of the Board on the 15th January next.

Test: G. WELLS, Secretary.

[NO. II.]

REPORT.

The following Report was submitted by a Committee of the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College to the Board, on 15th January inst., acting under Resolutions passed on the 8th December 1854.

To the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College :

THE Committee to whom the Resolutions of the Trustees of St. John's College passed on the 8th December last, were referred, report that they have had the same in their series consideration, for the purpose of determining upon and proposing measures for a thorough reorganization of the College. The Committee have deemed it expedient to confine their recommendations to a few propositions only, but of manifest necessity in their judgment. Any less fundamental in operation, it has seemed to the Committee, would fall short of the expressed puspose of the Resolutions, or meet the present necessities of the College.

Considering the appointment of a duly qualified Faculty, to be of the first importance in organizing a College, the Committee recommend that, in order that the Trustees may be entirely free to discharge this duty conveniently, and to secure the services of Professors of the best qualifications within their ability to procure, they declare, by Resolution, that the terms of service of the Principal and each of the present Professors of St. John's College shall expire on the first Wednesday of August next; that on the ——— day of June next, the Trustees will meet for the purpose of appointing a Faculty, to consist of the following Professors :—1st. A Professor of Moral Philosophy and History. 2nd. A Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. 3rd. A Professor of Mathematics. 4th. A Professor of Ancient Languages; and 5th. A Professor of Modern Languages. And at the same time, that a Teacher and Assistant Teacher of the Grammar School Department be appointed. The Committee further recommend, that the salary of each of the Professors constituting the Faculty be fixed at one thousand dollars per annum, to be further increased by the appropriation of one-half of the net receipts of the tuition fund, until the same shall reach the sum

of fifteen hundred dollars per annum. The salary of the Principal of the Grammar School to be eight hundred dollars, and that of the Assistant Teacher five hundred dollars, per annum. That at the time of appointing the Faculty, or as soon hereafter as practicable, the Trustees will designate one of the members of the Faculty elect as the Principal of the College, who shall receive in consideration of the duties to be devolved upon him as Principal, the additional sum of five hundred dollars per annum; and another of the Professors elect as Vice-Principal, whose extra compensation as Vice-Principal shall be three hundred dollars per annum. That the new faculty enter upon the discharge of their offices on the first Wednesday of October next.

The Committee think that the dispersion of the Students and Professors at three vacations during the year is injurious by occasioning too many interruptions in the course of duty. They therefore recommend, that instead of three, there shall hereafter be but one vacation, to commence on the first Wednesday of August, and to end on the first Wednesday of October, when the College year shall begin. That an examination of all the classes of both the College and Grammar School Departments shall be held immediately preceding the 1st Wednesday of August, and that on that day, instead of the 22d February, as heretofore, the Commencement exercises shall be held, provided there be a class that shall at that time be prepared and entitled to degrees.

The Committee further recommend, that the rules and regulations of the College be thoroughly revised, and in time for the revised system to be completed and published when the new Faculty shall enter upon the discharge of their offices. That the revision shall extend to the course of instruction, the duties of the Professors, those of the Principal and Vice-Principal, respectively, of the Teachers of the Grammar School, and of the Steward, as well as to the subject of discipline. To this end, it is proposed, that a committee of the Trustees be appointed to act in conjunction with the Faculty to be appointed in June, and that they report the new system of rules and regulations to the Board of Trustees for their final action.

The Committee do not think it expedient in this report to discuss the details of the subjects herein proposed to be left to the Committee of the Trustees and the Faculty. They cannot, however, refrain from recommending as a feature to characterize any system for the government of the College which may be adopted, to wit, that the Faculty have full power, and that it be made their duty, to enforce all the rules and regulations of the Institution, and that the Trustees have nothing to do with discipline, except when sentence of expulsion is pronounced against any student, to hear his complaint on an appeal. It seems to the Committee also proper, that the Faculty shall have at all times

the power of making any rule or regulation not inconsistent with the provisions of the charter, or those previously passed by the Trustees, subject of course to be modified or rescinded by the Trustees at their pleasure.

No regulation is more conducive, in the opinion of the Committee, to the good order and success of the College, than an association of the Professors and Students as intimate and permanent as practicable, and a withdrawal of both from the disturbing influences incident to a participation in, and exposure to, the excitements and engagements of the community generally. The Students ought to be at all times during the recesses, as well as during the actual recitation hours, as far as practicable, under the care and influence of the Professors, and within the range of assistance during study hours. And the Professors themselves, in the quiet and seclusion of their homes on the College Green, should have the opportunity and inducements presented to them to dedicate themselves uninterruptedly to the branches of learning respectively assigned them; and thus, while they acquire reputation for themselves, to reflect credit upon the Institution.

The Students and Professors should constiute a community of themselves. Their aspirations and rivalries, all their pursuits, and even their amusements, should be characterized by their literary and academical connexion. Therefore it is that all the colleges of any standing in the country have fallen upon this policy. And it seems to the Committee essential to the success of St. John's College also, that provision should at once be made for the erection of Professor's residences upon the College grounds, and in time for the accommodation of the Professors who will enter upon their duties in October next, or of such of them as may be designated. The Committee are well aware that a part of the principal of the College funds must be expended in order to carry into effect these recommendations. They nevertheless do not hesitate a moment on that account to make them. Regarded merely as an experiment, a total failure will not make the condition of the College worse than it is now. The case before us is that of a failure, and we deal with it as such. The manner in which the pecuniary resources of the College are at present employed, is extravagance and misapplication. The following facts will prove this assertion: The Grammar School, it is understood, supports itself on an average, from year to year. There are at this time twenty-eight Students in the College department, in whose instruction the revenues of the College are expended, including the State's annual donation, ($3000,) the income from investments, ($2289)—the amount received from that source during the past year—and the amount received as tuition money from a part of the Students, ($865,) during the past year. In other words, $219 is expended upon each Student in the College department, or $188 of the State's donation and the invested

fund upon each. This is the outlay in money. In addition, all the other property of the College, real and personal—at the lowest estimates worth thirty thousand dollars—is in like manner employed in the business of teaching twenty-eight boys.

Suppose that after a lapse of time sufficient to test the results of the proposed changes—say at the end of three years—when we shall have sunk $15,000—if changing the investment from bank stock or rail road bonds for buildings and other improvements can be properly called sinking—we shall then have $900 less per annum to apply to the education of the twenty-eight than we have now: or instead of $219, we shall have $187 to pay in money, and the use of all the other College property for the instruction of that number. At the worst, it is but substituting one species of waste for another. But we shall *not fail.* The example of all the flourishing Institutions in the country, a Faculty known and confided in, the latent pride of every Marylander, needing but a show of success to call it into an active interest in behalf of St. Johns and—although it be at a painful sacrifice of private feeling—the determination of the Trustees made public, to put forth their exertions to develop the advantages and resources of the College, will inspire confidence and attract the regards and patronage of the citizens of the State generally.

J. T. Mason,
John Ridout,
B. T. B. Worthington,
Committee.

For the purpose of enabling the Board of Trustees to act upon the foregoing Report, the following Resolutions, embodying the substance of the recommendations therein contained, were offered, and are now pending:

1. Resolved, That the terms of service of the Principal and the present Professors of St. John's College will expire on the 1st Wednesday of August next, and the Secretary is hereby directed to communicate a copy of the foregoing Resolutions to the Principal and each of the said Professors, forthwith.

2. Resolved, That the Trustees assemble at the usual place of meeting on the ———— day of June next, at 4 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of appointing a Faculty of St. John's College, to consist of the following Professors:—1st. A Professor of Moral Philosophy and History. 2nd. A Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. 3rd. A Professor of Mathematics. 4th. A Professor of Ancient Languages; and 5th. A Professor of Modern Languages. That at the same time, or as soon thereafter as convenient, one of the Professors elect be designated as the Princi-

pal, and another as Vice Principal, of St. John's College, whose duties as Principal and Vice Principal shall be prescribed as hereinafter directed.

3. Resolved, That the compensation of the members of the Faculty shall be as follows: each of the Professors shall receive a salary of one thousand dollars, and one-half of the net proceeds of the tuition fund shall be equally divided among the said five Professors, until the income from the two sources shall reach $1500 per annum. The Principal shall receive the sum of $500 per annum, and the Vice-Principal $300 in addition, and in consideration of the additional duties of Principal and Vice-Principal.

4. Resolved, That at the time specified for the appointment of a Faculty, or as soon thereafter as convenient, the Trustees will also elect a Principal and an assistant Teacher of the Grammar School Department: the salary of the Principal to be $800 per annum, and that of the assistant Teacher $500.

5. Resolved, That there shall hereafter be but one vacation, to begin on the 1st Wednesday of August, and to terminate on the 1st Wednesday of October. That a general examination of all the classes of both the College and Grammar School Departments shall be held immediately preceding the 1st Wednesday of August, and that on that day, instead of the 22nd February, as heretofore, the Commencement exercises shall be held, provided at that time that there shall be a class fully prepared and entitled by the laws of the Institution to degrees.

6. Resolved, That the College term shall consist of ten months, beginning on the 1st Wednesday of October and ending on the 1st Wednesday of August following.

7. Resolved, That a committee of three of the Trustees be appointed in June, to act in connexion with the Faculty to be elected in June, to determine upon and report to the Board a system of rules and regulations in respect to the discipline, the course of instruction, the powers and duties of the Faculty as a body, and the duties and powers of the Professors, the Principal, Vice-Principal, and the Teachers of the Grammar School, respectively, and of all other matters relating to the internal government of the College; and that the code of rules and regulations, as aforesaid, be reported to the Board for its action thereon on the 1st Wednesday of ———— next, and that the same, when completed, shall be published and go into operation on the ensuing 1st Wednesday of October.

8. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair, whose duty it shall be to select sites and to advertise for

proposals for the building of two suitable and convenient dwellings on the College grounds; that they report to the Board on the 1st Monday of March, the selection of the sites for said houses, and also the plan, or plans, and estimates which they may receive, and to make recommendations accordingly.

9. Resolved, That when the plans and estimates for said buildings shall have been determined on by the Board, the said committee shall proceed immediately to have the same erected and completed by the 1st day of September next, for the accommodation of such of the Professors as may be designated.

10. In order to carry out fully the two last foregoing Resolutions, it is further Resolved, That the Treasurer and Secretary be authorized and directed, as soon as to them it may be deemed prudent, to negotiate sales of such of the public securities in which the College funds are invested, as by them may be selected, for the purpose of raising the sum of ———————— dollars, to be held by the Treasurer, and to be appropriated to the costs of building the houses aforesaid, upon the drafts of the said building committee, or any two of them.

11. Resolved, That such of the Professors of the College, or Teachers of the Grammar School, as may be unmarried, shall board with the Steward of the College from and after the 1st Wednesday of October next, upon the terms to be specified in the rules and regulations hereinbefore directed to be prepared.

12. Resolved, That the Secretary have published in such of the newspapers in the State, and elsewhere in the United States, as in his judgment may cause the most general circulation of the same, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th of the foregoing Resolutions; and that the Secretary also advertise along with said Resolutions, that the Board of Trustees will receive applications for appointments to the Professorships created by said Resolutions, with testimonials of qualifications, until the —— day of June next, and that all such applications and communications be addressed to the said Secretary.

The foregoing Report and Resolutions were ordered by the Board of Trustees to be printed, and a copy sent to each of the Trustees, with the following note appended:—

January 15*th*, 1855.

Sir:—The foregoing Report was submitted on the 15th January instant, to the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College, by the Committee appointed under the Resolutions

relating to the condition of the College, and measures for a thorough reorganization, passed on the 8th December last. Resolutions for the purpose of carrying into effect the recommendations of the Report were also submitted, from which the above are copied, and are now pending. A meeting will be held in the Library of the College on Monday, January 29th, 1855, at 7 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of considering and acting upon the said Resolutions. You, as one of the Trustees, are particularly requested to attend, and if prevented, you are requested to give your views upon the same in writing, to be addressed to George Wells, Esq., Secretary of the Board, to be read at the said meeting.